

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4938

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH TGEN BL MILI

SUBJ: IAGS BOLIVIA MANNING LEVELS

REF: STATE 114736

PANAMA FOR IAGS

1. WE APPRECIATE HAVING RECEIVED THE COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY FOR ITS PROGRAM IN BOLIVIA. WE HAVE HELD OFF REPLYING, WAITING FOR THE RETURN OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR FROM A CONFERENCE IN PANAMA, THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE BOLIVIAN MAPPING INSTITUTE (IGM) AND PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF US/BOLIVIAN ACTIVITIES IN THE MAPPING FIELD WITH THE GOB. WE NOW BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE A CLEARLY DEFINED MISSION TO BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN A SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD, WITH CONSEQUENT CLEAR DECISIONS ON STAFFING AND FUNDING OF IAGS IN BOLIVIA. THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM DEPENDS FIRST UPON THE GOB WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AND FINANCE IT AND SECONDLY ON ITS ACTUAL COMPLIANCE WITH COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER WHEN THE GOB HAS REACHED FINAL CONCLUSIONS, WHICH SHOULD FOLLOW SOON AFTER ITS PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT WITH OUR PRESENTATION.

2. THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT ALL OF THE PROGRAMS REQUIRING DIRECT PARTICIPATION BY IAGS PERSONNEL IN BOLIVIA CAN BE
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COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 1980, AND THAT THE IAGS STAFF HERE

SHOULD THEN BE REDUCED TO LIAISON STATUS. DURING THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD AHEAD OF US, IT SEEMS REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT WE, WITH BOLIVIAN SUPPORT, CAN ARRANGE FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE COMPLETE PHOTOGRAPHY AND FIELD SURVEY OF BOLIVIA, WHICH CONSISTS OF PHOTOGRAPHING A REMAINING GAP OF 280,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS AT THE REALISTIC RATE OF 70,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS EACH YEAR. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GROUND STATIONS AND FIELD SURVEYS CAN BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 1980, CONTINGENT UPON THE U.S. ADHERING TO ITS COMMITMENTS AND BOLIVIA MAKING GOOD ON ITS PRELIMINARY OFFER OF EXPANDED ASSISTANCE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IAGS BOLIVIA NEEDS ANY INCREASE IN PERSONNEL IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND DECEMBER 1979, AND FURTHERMORE BELIEVE THAT THE ONE POSITION ALREADY VACATED NEED NOT BE FILLED.

3. IF THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES, AFTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND TIME, EITHER DO NOT AGREE WITH THE PROGRAM AS OUTLINED OR FAIL TO CARRY OUT THEIR COMMITMENTS, THEN WE SHOULD REASSESS THE IAGS ACTIVITIES IN BOLIVIA WITH A VIEW TO PHASING DOWN BOTH STAFFING AND FUNDING BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1980.

4. ON JULY 10 AMBASSADOR HELD MEETING WITH MINISTER OF COORDINATION AND PRESENT WERE LTC FURRER AND LTC WALTON OF IAGS BOLIVIA, AND GENERAL WILDE OF THE BOLIVIAN MAPPING INSTITUTE. THE AMBASSADOR REVIEWED THE GENERAL AIM OF THE U.S. IN ACCELERATING ASSISTANCE IN A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD TO COMPLETE PHOTOGRAPHY AND FIELD SURVEYS. AMBASSADOR NOTED THE HIGH TECHNICAL COMPETENCE OF THE BOLIVIAN MAPPING INSTITUTE AND TRANSFER OF FULL RESPONSIBILITY TO THAT AGENCY AT THE END OF THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. LTC. FURRER REVIEWED IN DETAIL THE PROPOSED NEW AGREEMENT FOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND IN MORE DETAIL THE IAGS AND BOLIVIAN POTENTIAL FOR COMPLETING OBJECTIVES IN THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. HE CITED SPECIFIC NEEDS FOR GOB INCREASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. GENERAL WILDE REVIEWED THE POSITION OF HIS AGENCY AND MADE A STRONG REQUEST FOR GOB INCREASED ASSISTANCE TO THE MAPPING PROGRAM SO AS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ACCELERATION IN IAGS SUPPORT. THE MINISTER OF COORDINATION, GENERAL LECHIN, ASKED FOR WRITTEN INFORMATION AND PROMISED TO HOLD PROMPTLY A MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE GOB CONCERNED WITH SUPPORT AND UTILIZATION OF MAPPING, SO AS TO ARRIVE AT WHAT HE SAID
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HE HOPED WOULD BE FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE PRESENTATIONS MADE BY LTC FURRER AND GENERAL WILDE. WE WILL KEEP ADDRESSEES INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF THIS MEETING.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE ANY DIFFERENCES ABOUT THE IAGS PROGRAM THROUGH THIS MEANS OF PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION WITH THE GOB. WE THEREFORE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE IG NEED CONCERN ITSELF FURTHER WITH THE IAGS

MANNING LEVELS AS SET FORTH IN OUR CASP.
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